



State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Sequoia Regional Office



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

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**Sequoia Regional Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Regional Advisory Committee Minutes**

May 13, 2026

– Zoom and In-Person at 770 E. Shaw Ave., Suite 123, Fresno, CA 93710

BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Becker (E)
Rebecca Donabed - Online
Michael Esquibel (E)
Matt Gjerde (E)
Sherry Huggins - Online
Carolyn Huffstutler (E)
Nicole Renee Mensch (E)
Lisajo Narcisse (E)
Julie Peeler - Online
Thao Tran - Online

STAFF PRESENT:

Nick Lutton, Regional Office Manager – In Person
Veronica Magallanes, Analyst II - Online
Heather Kroencke, Office Technician – In Person

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Heather Kroencke facilitated the online meeting. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the May 13, 2026, Regional Advisory Committee Meeting.

The official roll call was conducted by Heather Kroencke and there was not a quorum. The meeting continued as a committee as a whole. All motions will be moved to the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jenna Welch introduced herself as a Representative for the Office of Senator Grove.

Rosalina Alexander introduced herself as a Representative for the Office of Senator Alexandra Macedo.

Ashley Bullis introduced herself as a parent of a 3 ½ year old child with Down Syndrome and Global Delay.

Lisa Harris, Enoc Mendoza and Lisa Walker are community attendees and parents. Wayne Picard is with UCP, Susan Graham is with H.E.A.R.T.S Connection and Gretchen Saldana, Patrick Morrison and

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

Michael Fletcher are with Fresno Unified School District. Ricardo Del Hoyo is the new Community Liaison for PPL Fiscal Management Service (FMS).

Gabriel Ruiz Knabb is an Employment Specialist at CVRC. He reported that the 8th Cohort of Project Search is Graduating. They have 10 individuals finishing the program this year. Four already have job placement and 2 are continuing their education.

Dawn Purdy of Pathway to Change shared the save the date for their upcoming (September 18th, 2026) Event "Golden State Celebration which will honor the 5-year anniversary of Self-Determination. They will have a complete flyer ready soon.

Rebecca Donabed reported that starting July 29th through September 15th she will be again hosting a Leadership Academy through RICV. She will share the flyer when it is finalized. On the 9th and 10th of April there will be a Voter Accessibility event at the Fresno RICV. On November 7th from 10-2 the Fresno RICV will be holding a 50th Anniversary Open House.

NEW BUSINESS:

None to report.

PRESENTATION – CA START CENTRAL VALLEY

Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia, MSW, Program Director, CA START Central Valley, presented on her agency. They are a Systemic Therapeutic Assessment Resources and Treatment program (START). The program has offices nationwide. The Central Valley office has been in place for about 5 years. They currently serve all Central Valley Regional Centers catchment areas (Mariposa, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kings counties). They are hoping to also provide services for Kern Regional Center soon. Their program is available for individuals ages 6 years and up. They are served by referral only. The process begins with a Service Coordinator contacting a START representative once they have verified the client qualifies for services. They use the PERMA+ Model of wellness to ensure the individual receives not just baseline services but also ones that improve all quality of life.

Her program also offers monthly Clinical Education Teams (ET's) which are a learning forum held online on the 4th Tuesday of every month. These are open to the public and often have updates from multiple agencies followed by a short training.

STAFF UPDATES:

Nick Lutton shared the SCDD Council Meeting Summary which included topics covered at the March 24, 2026 State Council Meeting. Some highlights were a new member sworn in and review of the 2026-2027 Budget. It also covered SCDD Sponsored Legislation and 2026 Bills to consider. There is also an Executive Director's report from Aaron Carruthers. The summary is available at SCDD.ca.gov. The next Council meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026.

Nick Lutton shared that he has continued to work on outreach to local agencies and programs that we can partner with. These collaborations will allow us to have further reach for our systems change. Some of these potential partners are; CASA Fresno and Madera Counties, United Way of Fresno and Madera

Counties, UCP+ Campus, FCOE, MindCure (CALAIM). If RAC members have suggestions for others please contact us.

Veronica Magallanes, shared her updates on the training and events she has been doing as well as upcoming ones. These include her Healthy Relationship Series as well as these two:

- **Mariposa North County Summer Kick-Off Community Event-5/30/26 (Coulterville)**
-Coulterville Park, 10313 Park Ln, Coulterville CA -11am-2pm Resource tables, free food and refreshments, family-friendly activities (face painting, games, etc.), live music and giveaways
- **2026 Annual Community Vendor Fair-Kern Regional Center 6/3/26**
-Gameday Sports Academy, 3101 Gilmore Ave, Bakersfield, CA -10:30am-4:00pm

REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE:

Nick Lutton welcomed and thanked all the attendees from both Central Valley Regional Center and Kern Regional Center, we are thrilled to increase our collaborations.

Aaron Olsen reported for CVRC. They are currently rolling out and troubleshooting their online portal for Vendors. This is part of the Rate Reform which is trying to align all the updates and procedures. They are also busy with the end of the Fiscal Year. Currently they are experiencing 240 intake cases a month. They are also anticipating the May California Budget Revise and what work they may have to do to create a balanced budget. The hardest part is the increase in clients but no increase in funding. They currently serve about 34,000 Individuals at a 1-62 case load ratio. They are also looking forward to working with County Mental Health and the upcoming Pride Parade in which they will have a float.

Enrique Roman, Executive Director of Kern Regional Center also presented. He echoed Aarons remarks that they are also busy with End of Fiscal Year work and anticipating the upcoming Budget. Once the May Revise is published all the ED's will meet and make plans for the new fiscal year. KRC currently serves about 17,000 individuals with approximately 200 new intakes a month. They are focusing on training new staff as well as making plans as they are already outgrowing their two buildings.

PORTERVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER UPDATE:

Judi Muirhead will give an update at our next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

GUESTS – In-Person, Michelle Smith, Online - Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia, Enrique Roman, Lisa Walker, Carmen Torres, Susan Graham, Enoc Mendoza, Jenna Welch, Rosalinda Alexander, Dawn Purdy, Ashely Bullis, Wayne Picard, Lisa Harris, Gabriel Ruiz Knabb, Gretchen Saldana, Patrick Morrison, Micheal Fletcher, Tomas Cubis, Ricardo Del Hoyo, Steven Ramon and Aaron Olsen.